

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT DETAILS, PG 2

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Province's business owners not optimistic

ECONOMY From sunny skies to down in the dumps: Nova Scotian business owners are now the least optimistic in region.

A survey by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business shows this province is the most pessimistic in Atlantic Canada, whereas last year, we were the most optimistic.

Ontario businesses were the least optimistic nationally.

"In a nutshell, the decline in optimism has been widespread," said Leanne Hachey, with CFIB.

"No province or industry sector has been immune to what's going on around the world. That said, we've seen worse — the downturn hasn't yet matched that experienced during the mid-1990s and we hope it doesn't."

The survey was conducted between Oct. 6th and Nov. 16th. Nationally, the manufacturing sector is the least optimistic followed by construction and retail.

Most optimistic are health care, education and business services sectors.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Celebrity Buzz pg 26

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Ottawa Parliament back in action

Canada's Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean delivers the throne speech in the Senate chamber on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday. The speech focused mostly on the flagging economy and how the Harper government plans to respond to the challenge. Story, page 6.

Top cop eyes gangs

Chief to 'shut them down'

LINDSAY JONES
and PHILIP CROUCHER



Halifax's chief of police said he's taking "unprecedented measures" to stop any further gang violence in the city.

"I want it to stop," Frank Beazley said. "... I'm going to do everything in my power to shut them down."

Beazley admitted he was horrified to learn that a man in his mid-20s was shot in the parking lot while leaving the IWK Health Centre Tuesday night. Police are still looking for the suspect, but a 17-year-old girl who accompanied the victim was arrested for possessing a gun.

A day earlier, shots were fired at Jimmy Melvin Sr., who has served jail time for drug trafficking, outside Jessy's Pizza in Spryfield.

Beazley said he's using everything he's got to put the people responsible behind bars. He asked for the public's help, adding that the people involved are also

Turf war

- Both incidents are the latest in a long-standing turf war between two local gangs, reportedly the Marriotts and the Melvins.

engaged in other crimes.

Beazley also gave a warning for those involved: "They're going to be out of business. They are not going to be able to, very easily, do any type of criminal activity."

On Friday, Jimmy Melvin Jr. was released from jail. Beazley said his release could be seen as a threat.

IWK CEO Anne McGuire said she's disturbed that the girl who was arrested was in the hospital with a gun.

"This certainly gives us pause, and I can assure you we've had all kinds of discussions about whether this is an isolated incident or is this a new world and we need to change the way we're addressing security," McGuire said.

Spryfield 'great area': Resident

SHOOTINGS The two recent shootings associated with Spryfield are giving the area an even worse name, say some students in the community.

"It just gives us a worse name, a bad rap really," said Kyle Mosher, a Grade 12 student at J.L. Ilesley High School in Spryfield. "It's bad to see when you're trying to go to school here."

Grade 10 student Vasili Panagopoulos said the violence is only a fraction of what the community really stands for.

"There's so many more elements that people don't see of Spryfield. It's really nice," said Panagopoulos.

"Spryfield is a great area to live. I've lived here all my life."

LINDSAY JONES/METRO HALIFAX

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Local



Tennis stars get on the ball

Three tennis stars will be "Raising a Racquet for Kids" tonight in support of Atlantic tennis at the Courtyard Club in Halifax. Masters Cup, Wimbledon winner and Golden Slam champion Daniel Nestor will be there with 2006 Junior U.S. Open Finalist and fellow Davis Cup member Peter Polansky for the second annual event for local athletes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

\$25M gap in N.S. security

Report reveals government vulnerable to banking fraud

PAUL MCLEOD

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Security holes could allow people to defraud the government of up to \$25 million, an auditor general's report revealed yesterday.

The report found 114 government employees have too much power, making it possible for them to commit fraud. Such powers include being able to make payments for goods, then confirm that the goods came in — so payment could be made for nothing.

Fortunately, there's a cap against how much could be taken at one time. Unfortunately, that cap is \$25 million.

The government pays

"It is conceivable that (someone who can circumvent security) could transfer an amount under \$25 million to another bank account, perhaps in another country."

Auditor general's security report

out billions of dollars through electronic payments. The limit per payment is \$25 million to accommodate for large loan and grant payments.

If security is bypassed or a payment is altered before it reaches the bank, "it is conceivable that (someone who can circumvent security) could transfer an amount under \$25 million to another bank account, perhaps in another country," reads the report.

Auditor General Jacques

Lapointe wants the cap lowered.

"We're saying if you want to have a stop, stop it below that," said Lapointe. Service Nova Scotia Minister Jamie Muir said he accepts the report's findings, but hasn't had time to read it in detail yet.

He said security measures are protecting the province, but there's always room for improvement.

"I sign off on any appropriation of a significant fig-

ure in my department," said Muir.

"I guess in any system there's some opportunity for things to go awry, but it'd be very difficult."

Lapointe and his staff found a litany of other problems with government accounting.

Thirteen government employees can create or change master records and start payments.

"This could enable fictitious vendors to be set up in order to misappropriate government funds," the report concludes.

They also found examples of payments being made without approval, payments approved by people who weren't authorized, and mathematical errors in payments.



Auditor General Jacques Lapointe speaks to reporters after releasing his semi-annual report yesterday.

Pension regulation 'not adequate', Lapointe says

DEVIN STEVENS
for Metro Halifax

Nova Scotia's auditor general says the provincial government has to make sure pension plan administrators are acting in the best interest of their clients.

"The commitment in the (Pensions Benefits) Act ... is to do enough to have some confidence in the safety and the benefits of all of those plans," Auditor General Jacques Lapointe said after presenting his report to the legislature yesterday.

The report focuses on private sector pension plans. Federal plans, and pensions for provincial employees, like teachers, were left out.

The report said the pension regulation division is "not adequate to effectively safeguard pensioners' benefit entitlements." It said the department doesn't verify pension information itself, but instead takes the word of pension

plan administrators.

The report made five recommendations, including a plan for the department to independently verify administrator's numbers.

That's a move the minister in charge said doesn't happen in any Canadian province, and won't happen in Nova Scotia.

"The regulation we have for pensions is first rate," Labour Minister Mark Parent said.

Parent explained there are already three checks and balances on pensions administrators. First, they have to file a two-page report every year about the people in the plan, how it has changed, and other details. Administrators also go through an audit every three years. The superintendent of pensions reviews both documents.

"You have three different sets of eyes looking at these pensions. It's a good system," Parent said.

The Labour Department has accepted the other four recommendations.

Better bus check standards needed: AG

DEVIN STEVENS
for Metro Halifax

Almost three-quarters of commercial vehicles transporting Nova Scotia passengers — including 63 per cent of school buses — have failed inspection over the last two years.

That's one of the findings Auditor General Jacques Lapointe made in a report to the Nova Scotia legislature yesterday.

"This suggests a more robust system of enforcement is in the interest of bus travelling Nova Scotians," Lapointe said.

"With that kind of a fail rate on a regular basis — sometimes on repeat vehicles — that alone is a signal of too high of risk."

Nova Scotia's Utility and Review Board's motor carrier division is responsible for the inspections of private bus companies, school buses, and large passenger vans. The report says the division inspects about 4,900 vehicles a year.

About 3,100 of those vehicles failed inspection and were kept off the road.

The motor carrier division was also slammed for using a computer system designed in the early '90s, and for neglecting maintenance of brake testing equipment.



Inspector John Penney tests the tread depth on a bus at the Metro Transit garage in Dartmouth yesterday. The Auditor General said in a report released yesterday that the Utility and Review Board's Motor Carrier Division is keeping track of inspection and safety information on an outdated computer system.

A lot of vehicle inspection information was unavailable to the auditor general's office because the division only keeps paper records.

Despite the report's findings, the Review Board said school and transit buses are safe.

"The buses are done every six months, completely, nose to tail," said executive director Paul Allen, adding that an open first-aid kit could cause an

"There is no way we're going to let anything on the road we don't feel is safe."

Paul Allen, Review Board executive director

inspection failure.

"There is no way we're going to let anything on the road we don't feel is safe to be on the road. Everything is fixed, removed, or in some way resolved before that bus hits the street again."

Seven recommendations

were made to the Utility and Review Board in the auditor general's report. They range from updating computer systems and inspection criteria, to starting a complaint system.

The review board had accepted all the recommendations.

News in brief

WOODLANDS Certification is available for more of Nova Scotia's small woodlot owners. Natural Resources Minister David Morse and members of the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners signed a contract for the woodlot certification program today. Over four years, \$575,000 will be provided to the federation as part of the province's \$1.5-million investment to support woodlot certification. Certification gives woodlot owners sustainable forestry management plans and the ability to meet today's environmental and cultural standards.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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What's online today.

Watch as a Vietnamese boy gets first surgery to remove a large facial growth at metronews.ca/world

Watch Justin Trudeau's nostalgic return to Parliament Hill at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 24, 28, 34, 38, 44 & 45 Bonus 35
These results are not official.

Public health

The Guyanese Minister of Health is holding a global health lecture at Dalhousie University tonight. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

local 3



RCMP Insp. Brad Sullivan, left and Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police deputy chief, answer questions at the HRP headquarters about Operation Imperative, an undercover operation which resulted in the arrest of 14 people.

Drugs off street: Cops

Fourteen arrested in bust at Uniacke Square

LINDSAY JONES
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Drugs are virtually off the street in Uniacke Square and on Gottingen Street, the city's deputy chief of police says.

Police descended on eight homes in the area with search warrants yesterday.

They arrested 14 men and women between ages 16 and 64 for drug possession and trafficking. They seized crack cocaine, marijuana and illegal prescription drugs.

The investigation, dubbed Operation Imperative, was five months in the making and involved numerous police units.

"It will be very difficult today to get drugs in that neighbourhood," Halifax regional police deputy chief Chris McNeil told reporters at police headquarters yesterday. "The

"The battle against drug trafficking is ongoing ... but I'm confident today that we have made significant difference in that community."

Chris McNeil, police deputy chief

battle against drug trafficking is ongoing ... but I'm confident today that we have made significant difference in that community."

McNeil said the people arrested were street level dealers that had been working in the area for years.

He said the drug bust should put other dealers on notice for what's to come: "You're next. We're coming after you and we'll be coming to a neighbourhood near you."

"You shouldn't believe that you're insulated, that you're untouchable."

RCMP Insp. Brad Sullivan said the bust demonstrates

a "significant criminal enterprise" that was operating in the community.

"While many people may not feel directly victimized by this type of crime, each one of us is affected by street level drug trafficking and the associated violence that affects the overall quality of life in HRM," Sullivan said.

Police are still looking for five other people and expect to arrest them over the next few days.

Some of the people arrested are expected to appear in Halifax provincial court today. Five people have been released and are scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

U.S. warship sailing into Halifax Harbour

NAVY Halifax will be welcoming to its port the USS Freedom, the American navy's newest warship and first Littoral Combat Ship.

After being commissioned on Nov. 8 in Milwaukee, the USS Freedom's maiden voyage is now underway with the ship currently in the Great Lakes region. It will be heading over to the East

Coast next and making a stop in Halifax sometime in the next couple of weeks.

An exact date hasn't yet been made official.

Besides Halifax, other port visits for the USS Freedom include Buffalo, Montreal, Quebec City and Boston. The transit will conclude at Naval Amphibious Base in Little

Creek, Va., where the ship will undergo year-long testing and evaluation.

The USS Freedom is optimized for littoral or coastal missions, focusing on high-speed maneuverability, agility and adaptability. It is capable of reaching speeds in excess of 40 knots and can operate in water less than 20 feet deep.

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Masters students receive grant
Four masters students in Halifax working on energy-related projects will get \$15,000 each over two years from the Pengrowth-Nova Scotia Petroleum Innovation Grant. **METRO HALIFAX**

More home care providers needed: Auditor General

PAUL MCLEOD
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Nova Scotia may find itself with a critical lack of home care providers, according to yesterday's auditor general's report.

The independent review concluded government

hasn't determined how many home care workers will be needed or whether there will be enough of them.

But Health Minister Chris d'Entremont disagreed with the report, saying the government has a 10-year plan and will train well over a

"I think the minister is living in a fantasy land if he thinks appropriate home care services are in place."

NDP leader Darrell Dexter

thousand new home care assistants throughout this and next year.

"We have worked diligently to make sure we have the training spaces

available at the community colleges," said d'Entremont.

"We have a strategy that is working, one that is putting more people on the ground."

The report claimed many suggestions from previous reviews haven't been followed up on, such

as a system to monitor complaints. Currently the province plans to transfer control of the home care file to district health authorities. But the report recommends holding off on that until the province addresses the auditor general's concerns.

Opposition leaders seized on the report to slam the department of health.

"I think the minister is living in a fantasy land if he thinks appropriate home care services are in place," said NDP leader Darrell Dexter.

But d'Entremont defended the government plan, saying they will inject \$260 million into home care.

"We have a plan and we have a plan that's working," he said.

Re-design issued for waterfront

LIVERPOOL The Region of Queens Municipality is once again looking at Liverpool's waterfront design.

Council approved the mandate, and now the PAC will move forward with possible re-designs.

The mandate identifies 12 points for the PAC to consider, but council identified two that were most important.

The first is to address flooding issues in the parking area. The second was to analyze the costs and benefits of re-designing the waterfront.

In council, Mayor Leefe said the plan is "Not nickels and dimes. We're talking about major money."

METRO HALIFAX

Construction at tar ponds halted

SYDNEY Unemployed Sydney tradespeople halted construction on a barrier wall at the Sydney tar ponds site, Tuesday, claiming that workers had been brought in from Alberta to work on the project.

About 75 out-of-work labourers and equipment operators prevented construction on a segment of the \$400-million tar ponds cleanup after hearing the contractor had brought in the workers. **METRO HALIFAX**



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Sounds Like Christmas this weekend

The Cobequid Cultural Centre of the Arts Society is holding its first annual Sounds Like Christmas variety show and concert tomorrow and Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Knox United Church on Sackville Drive. Performances include the Sackville Community Band, Knox United Church Choir, Stacie Lynn Hatt, Sylvain LaChance and Clare Grieves. **METRO HALIFAX**



LINDSAY JONES/METRO HALIFAX

Pam LeJean speaks to students at J.L. Ilsley High School yesterday for the first National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims. The 24-year-old from Cape Breton was paralyzed in a car accident about six years ago.

Warning youth on poor driving

LINDSAY JONES
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Pam LeJean never wanted to give up basketball or rugby.

The 24-year-old Dalhousie University graduate told students at J.L. Ilsley High School yesterday how travelling too fast in a car changed everything for her six years ago.

A car accident left LeJean with a broken back.

She was paralyzed from the waist down.

"It changed my life forever," she told students. "It was really difficult to ... change everything that I thought was important in my life. I couldn't run. I couldn't play sports anymore."

While LeJean said she eventually adapted and is leading a happy, satisfied life, she gave students a message on the first National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims yesterday.

"Just drive very carefully," LeJean said. "It's really

important to just be conscious of everything that you do."

To mark the day, Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister Murray Scott also urged all students to be aware of road safety.

Students from the school and the Nova Scotia Road Safety Youth Committee organized the event to raise awareness about the high number of young people that are injured or killed in car accidents.

Every year, an average of 28 people between the ages of 15 and 30 die on Nova Scotia roads in car crashes. Yesterday, the high school students commemorated the seven basketball players and coach's wife who lost their lives in the Bathurst, N.B. tragic van accident last January.

Members of the boys' basketball team read out their names, and the girls' team read a poem.

Deal reached on lobster licences

FISHING Maritime Fishermen's Union (MFU) officials joined dozens of fishermen in Halifax recently to discuss the issue of lobster licence stacking.

The two-day long information session organized by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans brought together fishermen from all across Atlantic Canada and Quebec who want clarification on the details of stacking from government

30 Fishing regulations for the last 30 years have allowed two captains to share the same boat if they had two licences when it came to setting and collecting lobster traps.

officials. For at least 30 years, lobster fishing regulations have allowed two

captains or lobster licence holders, to stack their licences by fishing aboard the same vessel, while using a reduced number of traps equivalent to 150 per cent of a single licence.

The new rules allow one fishermen, who must be an owner/operator, to own two licences but would be subject to the same reduction of traps as the previous regulation.

METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

AWARD The Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency and one of its senior staff members has received an award for making a significant contribution to industrial mineral development in Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources recognized the contribution of the SHRDA and Frances Gillies, its senior business development facilitator, by awarding him with the Terence Coughlan Award.

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Lead levels in most Canadians have dropped dramatically, but federal officials have no idea if the toxic metal is in young children. The number of Canadians with potentially dangerous levels of lead in their blood has dropped from 25 per cent in 1978 to less than one per cent. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Canada



Cauchon stays out of race

Martin Cauchon, left, who as federal minister of justice lobbied for legalization of same-sex marriage and decriminalization of marijuana, has decided to stay out of the Liberal leadership race. The 46-year-old said yesterday that the prospect of taking on a heavy debt was the biggest factor in his decision.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tories predict deficits

Conservative throne speech warns of tough times ahead

Warning of the potential for short-term deficits and government belt-tightening, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives yesterday unveiled a throne speech it says copes with "extraordinary" financial challenges.

"This is a time of unprecedented extraordinary

"This is a time of unprecedented extraordinary global economic challenge and uncertainty."

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean

global economic challenge and uncertainty," Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean said as she read the speech.

But despite the grim news, the speech was vague

on government help for hard-hit sectors, such as auto manufacturers. And Finance Minister Jim Flaherty made clear that a stimulus package to kick-start the

economy is months away.

"It certainly will not be in the fall economic update. It's not a mini-budget, it's an update," he said.

But he didn't rule out new measures to rescue the economy eventually. "If it means that we would run a (budget) deficit, we'll run a deficit," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Calgary Chocolate dress



Courtney Murphy wears the latest in food fashion with a Paul Hardy-designed chocolate dress featuring Bernard Callebaut chocolate, designed for a Paris chocolate fashion show and the Bernard Callebaut Chocolate's 25th anniversary celebration.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CANADA

Obama inspires Ottawa to work for continental cap-and-trade

ENVIRONMENT The Conservative government, shifting positions in the wake of Barack Obama's election in the U.S., said yesterday that it would work to develop a North America-wide cap-and-trade system to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

The Tories, who walked away from the Kyoto protocol on climate change after taking power in 2006, have until now focused on cutting the intensity of emissions rather than imposing outright curbs.

"We will work with the

provincial governments and our partners to develop and implement a North America-wide cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gases," the government said as it unveiled plans for the new session of Parliament.

Obama favors much tougher greenhouse gas reduction targets than those set by the Conservatives, and says he will start a cap-and-trade system.

REUTERS



Watch Justin Trudeau's nostalgic return to Parliament Hill at metronews.ca/canada

News in brief

POLITICS The Liberal Party said yesterday it would not defeat the minority Conservative government. The Bloc Québécois and the New Democrats said

they would vote against the throne speech, but Liberal leader Stéphane Dion said it would be irresponsible to force another election now.

BODY FOUND Police in the Eastern Ontario city of Belleville are investigating after one officer apparently committed suicide inside a police

station yesterday morning. Reports say that Mike Eby, 51, appears to have shot himself to death. An autopsy is scheduled for today. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR NEW 'DO

Changing your hairstyle doesn't have to turn into a hair-raising experience – just make sure you follow a few simple styling rules.

When it's time for a new hairstyle, it's important for the cut and length to fit the shape of your face and your own personal style. Here are some tricks to finding the right 'do for you.

Those with round faces should keep their locks relatively long, mid-neck or longer, and height on top to lengthen

the face. Fullness on the sides will have the opposite effect and make your face appear shorter.

As for long, slender faces, blunt (equal length) cuts can be very interesting. Try an ear-length haircut with more volume on the sides to make your face look fuller. Bangs will shorten the length of your face and add an element of softness.



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Comment & Views

Comment

Hillary hazard ahead

Obama better off without Clinton in cabinet

Home&Abroad

Andrew
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Canada & world insight

Hillary Rodham Clinton for Secretary of State of the United States of America?

If the reports are correct, Barack Obama is preparing to name Clinton, the most popular woman in the country, to the most senior position in his cabinet.

But if Obama has decided to appoint Clinton, he should reconsider. And if Clinton has decided to accept, she should reconsider. For both, the appointment would be a mistake.

If Obama really wanted Clinton in his White House,

he could have made her his vice-president last August. He did not choose her because they had no personal chemistry and because she would have contradicted his mantra of change. She is the Washington insider; he is not.

Many thought Obama was wrong. They said that because Clinton had won 18 million votes in the primaries and caucuses — almost as many as he did — he had to appoint her as VP or risk alienating fellow Democrats.

They warned that rejecting her would drive her loyalists into the arms of John McCain. That fear was groundless — her supporters were never going to vote for the Republican ticket, especially one which included the anti-feminist Sarah Palin.

Obama decided to break with the Clintons, who have dominated the Democratic Party since 1992. He did not

"If Obama and Hillary were to fall out on a matter of policy, he couldn't fire her. It would rupture the party."

need her or her husband, who diminished himself in her campaign. It was a wise decision, though when Palin joined McCain and gave the Republicans a momentary surge in September, some Nervous Nellies worried that Obama had erred in choosing Joe Biden. He didn't.

So why choose her now? No doubt she is competent, compelling and the best known woman in America. She has impeccable credentials.

But her appointment wouldn't set a precedent — there has been a woman, indeed a black woman, lead-

ing the Department of State for the last four years — and Clinton would steal Obama's thunder. Moreover, her husband and his mysterious business interests could be trouble.

Worse, if Obama and Hillary were to fall out on a matter of policy, he couldn't fire her. It would rupture the party.

And why would she take the job? She would have to resign her seat in the Senate and give up leadership on health care and other social issues that motivate her. She would miss the opportunity to replace the ailing Edward Kennedy as the country's great liberal lion.

Obama should choose someone else for Foggy Bottom. Hillary Clinton brings more dangers than benefits.

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson*.



MICHAEL DE ADOR

Views

Former child soldiers reach out to victims



Susan
McClelland

Kabba Williams sits quietly, his hands folded in his lap. The 24-year-old's wide smile belies the horrors he has inflicted on others and of which he is also a victim. Sitting beside Williams is Mariatu Kamara, now a 22-year-old college student in Toronto. Kamara is an all too emotional reminder for Williams of his past. She was only 12 in 1999 when rebels in Sierra Leone's 11-year-long civil war invaded her village. Child soldiers held the young girl hostage for nearly a day and then amputated her hands before setting her free.

"I did this," Williams, looking briefly at Kamara, told the audience at the University of Alberta last week. "I did terrible things.

Rape, murder, cutting off people's hands."

Williams was not the child combatant that tortured Kamara. But for nearly three years, Williams was a boy soldier — in fact, he's one of the youngest child soldiers ever recruited in an African conflict, having been abducted by rebel forces at the start of the Sierra Leone war in 1991 when he was only six years old.

Last week at the University of Alberta's Festival of Ideas, Kamara and Williams, now an outspoken human rights advocate in Sierra Leone who speaks on the use and victimization of child soldiers, came together for the first time.

"It was scary at first," says Kamara, whose memoir *The Bite of the Mango*, which I wrote, was released last month. "But what can I do to him ... to the boys who did this to me? My hatred toward them is only hurting me, so I have to forgive."



Mariatu
Kamara

I have been involved now with the Sierra Leonean community for several years. I am struck by their inherent ability to tell their stories, hold one another and build community. I was by far more nervous of the meeting between Kamara and Williams than they were. When they first saw each other, they embraced. To anyone looking on, they appeared like old friends.

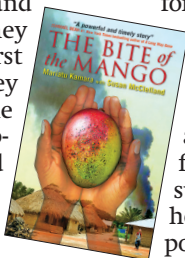
But they're not. Sierra Leone saw children commit some of the worst atrocities in the war that ended in 2002. Tens of thousands of young people were killed, maimed, raped and recruited by various rebel groups, including the Revolutionary United

Front. Worldwide, the UN estimates that there are about 250,000 to 300,000 child soldiers at any given time.

Williams has been very active in Sierra Leone's peace building process. His newest project involves former child soldiers reaching out to the villages in Sierra Leone. "It would be an apology, a way we can say we take responsibility for what we did, and how do we move forward together," says Williams.

"It will be challenging," Kamara concludes. "There are many amputees from the war still suffering with their health and with poverty. But we need to do whatever it takes to make sure war doesn't happen again."

Susan McClelland is an award-winning magazine journalist based in Toronto. *The Bite of the Mango*, her first book, has been nominated for an American Library Association, young adult, non-fiction book of the year.



Letters

Shahnaz Azarbeh, TORONTO

I have been a Liberal supporter for more than 25 years, but have stopped voting since the last two elections because of sheer fatigue.

Look at all our parties and their candidates — an old-boys league. We need new blood, new ideas, fresh perspective, charisma. Someone we would be proud of, to represent us both nationally and internationally.

Michael Ignatieff is going to do no magic — the man reeks of high-class arrogance. And why is Bob Rae even being considered after what he did to Ontario when he was NDP? With one of these two heading the Liberal Party, I know I will not be voting for a long, long time.

Jonathan Dean,
THE ATLANTICA PARTY,
BEDFORD

We often hear that voting is a "civic duty," but it is more accurate to say that voting is a "civic right" and no free and independent people such as Atlantic Canadians should ever al-

low a government to force them to exercise their rights no matter how wonderful the goal. Put simply, it is no one's business but the individual whether they vote or not.

People should be free not to participate if they believe not voting is important. Not voting is also a valid method of dissent against governance and is why totalitarian states that maintain a veneer of democracy are always careful to manufacture near 100 per cent turnouts. Any government that interferes in that freedom is acting the tyrant.

Our declining voter turnout indicates growing dissent with a provincial political system that needs reforms.

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Stricter regulation needed to ward off cybercrime epidemic: Experts

Cybercrime is likely to wreak as much havoc as the credit crisis in the coming years if international regulation is not improved, some of the world's top crime experts said yesterday. Damage caused by cybercrime is estimated at \$100 billion annually. **REUTERS**

9

World/Business

'Forced wedding' manual created for Paris officials

FRANCE The Paris City Hall launched a manual on forced marriages yesterday to help officials spot young women being coerced into matrimony.

An estimated 70,000 teenage girls living in France are victims or potential victims of forced marriages, many of them from immigrant families.

Causes can vary widely, from cultural and religious factors to the will by immigrant parents to "protect" their daughters from relationships with men from other communities.

The new manual, a 32-page book that will be distributed to officials, lists clues that can arouse suspicions. The law allows officials to organize interviews with the couple to determine if they both wish to be married. **REUTERS**

Watch as a Vietnamese boy gets first surgery to remove a large facial growth at metronews.ca/world

Britain One fat cat



Veterinary charity PDSA nurse Jennie Keen is seen holding Tink, a 13-year-old cat, in this undated handout photograph received in London yesterday. Eight of Britain's most overweight pets are to embark on a 100-day diet and fitness regime in a bid to be crowned this year's pet fit club champion.

REUTERS / PDSA / HANDOUT

Scribe's murder trial shut

Colleagues of murdered Russian reporter Anna Politkovskaya accused the government of a cover up yesterday after a judge barred the public from the trial of three men accused of helping kill her.

Politkovskaya was shot dead two years ago, raising questions about Russia's commitment to freedom of

speech.

Judge Yevgeny Zubov announced he was overturning his own earlier ruling that the trial be public, saying jurors had refused to enter the courtroom if reporters were present, lawyers for Politkovskaya's family said afterwards.

Dmitry Muratov, editor-in-chief of the newspaper

where Politkovskaya worked, said the decision was a breach of justice intended to cover facts about how Russian law enforcement agencies operate.

Politkovskaya, a 48-year-old mother, who had reported on human rights abuses, was shot dead on Oct. 7, 2006 outside her flat. **REUTERS**

News in brief

CHINA Thousands rioted Monday in Gansu province, and police were told by the country's Public Security Minister yesterday to ensure social stability as

the country's economy slowed.

PIRATES Gunmen from Somalia have seized two more vessels. Buccaneers have taken a Thai fishing boat, a Greek carrier

er and a Hong Kong-flagged ship since Saturday's spectacular capture of a Saudi supertanker, the biggest ship heist in history. **REUTERS**



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Business

Recession risk growing: Carney

The Bank of Canada sees a greater risk of recession in Canada than it did just one month ago as the global financial crisis rips through the economy, Governor Mark Carney said yesterday.

In a speech in London, Carney repeated that the central bank would likely have to cut its benchmark interest rate further to keep the export-reliant economy afloat in the face of a global recession and what he called a "consumer recession" in the United States, Canada's top trading partner.

"Starting from flat growth in the first quarter of 2009 and the second quarter of 2009 ... recession is a possibility for Canada. We do see growth picking up in the second half of 2009," he said at a news conference following his speech.

In the central bank's lat-

"Starting from flat growth in the first quarter of 2009 and the second quarter of 2009 ... recession is a possibility for Canada.

Mark Carney

est outlook in October, it forecast the economy would grow 0.8 per cent in the third quarter of this year before contracting 0.4 per cent in the final quarter and staying flat in the first quarter of next year.

Canada narrowly avoided slipping into recession in the first half of this year.

The bank also said last month it would likely need to cut its overnight lending rate further, but said the risks to its outlook were balanced.

REUTERS

Scotiabank's warning puts heat on banks

STOCKS Shares of Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce led Canadian banking stocks lower yesterday morning as analysts said big securities-related writedowns loom in their upcoming quarterly reports.

After markets closed on Tuesday, Bank of Nova Scotia said it would take a hit of \$890 million before tax in its fourth quarter on trading losses tied to bankrupt Lehman Brothers Holdings, as well as lower securities and derivatives valuations. **REUTERS**

In brief

AUTO U.S. auto executives went to Capitol Hill yesterday for a second day to plead for \$25 billion in government aid, but legislators tried to fashion a last-minute compromise bailout bill that could pass muster. **REUTERS**

Don Wakamatsu became the first Asian-American manager in major league baseball history when he was hired yesterday by the Seattle Mariners. Wakamatsu was bench coach for the Oakland Athletics last season. Before that he spent five years with the Texas Rangers.

Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Quarterback club

The two head coaches who will meet in this Sunday's Grey Cup game, Calgary's John Hufnagel and Montreal's Marc Trestman, earned their coaching stripes in the NFL under the title of either quarterback coach or offensive co-ordinator. Here's a few of their former QB students:

John Hufnagel

- 2001: Indianapolis Colts, **Peyton Manning**
- 2002: Jacksonville Jaguars, **Mark Brunell**
- 2003: New England Patriots, **Tom Brady**
- 2004-06: New York Giants, **Eli Manning**

Marc Trestman

- 1989: Cleveland Browns, **Bernie Kosar**
- 1995: San Francisco 49ers, **Steve Young**
- 2002: Oakland Raiders, **Rich Gannon**

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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LAST NIGHT'S RESULT
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Russia 4 QMJHL 3
(Series tied 1-1)

TONIGHT'S GAME

Quebec at Drummondville

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Acadie-Bathurst at Moncton

Val-d'Or at P.E.I.

Rouyn-Noranda at Chicoutimi

Quebec at Montreal

Lewiston at Shawinigan

Rimouski at Victoriaville

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 7 Buffalo 4

Vancouver 6 N.Y. Rangers 3

Washington at Anaheim

Bruins stay hot

NHL RESULT

Sabres 4 Bruins 7



Chuck Kobasew and Zdeno Chara both scored twice, as the red-hot Boston Bruins scored the last five goals and defeated the Buffalo Sabres 7-4 last night at TD Banknorth Garden.

Marc Savard registered a goal and three assists, while David Krejci had a goal and two helpers for the Bruins, who have won 10 of their last 12 games and lead the Northeast division with 28 points. Phil Kessel scored a goal and assisted on another for Boston, which has won six



Sabres goaltender Ryan Miller is beaten by the Bruins' David Krejci last night. He was pulled in the third period.

straight games as the host. Manny Fernandez stopped 25-of-29 shots to pick up the win. Ryan Miller allowed seven goals on 20 shots and was lifted in the

third period in favour of Patrick Lalime. It was a shooting gallery as the clubs combined for seven goals in the first period.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Raptors survive Wade, Heat in Miami

NBA RESULT

Raptors 101 Heat 95



THE SKINNY: Andrea Bargnani scored a season-high 25 points, Jermaine O'Neal finished with 16 points and 17 rebounds, and the Raptors overcame Dwyane Wade to beat the Heat in Miami last night.



Jermaine O'Neal recorded his fifth straight double-double.

JOSE BACK: Jose Calderon returned to the starting lineup after a two-game absence, playing 32 minutes and chipping in eight

points and seven assists.

HOT FROM 3: Toronto went 6-for-6 from 3-point range in the third quarter, outscoring Miami 13-2 during one stretch in that period.

THE D-WADE FACTOR: Singlehandedly trying to beat in Toronto, Wade put up 30 shots in the game, hitting over 50 per cent with 40 points and 11 dimes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Coco is K.C. bound

The Boston Red Sox traded outfielder Coco Crisp to the Kansas City Royals yesterday for relief pitcher Ramon Ramirez. Crisp stole 20 bases for the third straight season in 2008 and hit .417 in the post-season for Boston.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Whither the Vanier Cup in '09?

There will be a Vanier Cup next year. But no one has any idea where the national university football championship will be played. Bidding to host the 45th annual game closed two weeks ago and no one stepped up.

Marg McGregor, CEO of Canadian Interuniversity Sport, said Tuesday she was disappointed by the lack of interest and has started looking at emergency options to be raised at a board of directors meeting next month in Ottawa.

"It really does surprise me (that there were no offers) because I had expected interest from right across the country," said McGre-

gor, whose national organization staged the event until eight years ago when it offered the game to the highest bidder among the four regional university athletic associations. The OUA won the bid for 2007 and '08, and wanted to hold the games in Hamilton. But last year, when the Canadian Football League asked for a Grey Cup-Vanier Cup combo in Toronto, the OUA accepted.

An announced crowd of 26,787, many benefiting from reduced-price or complimentary seats, saw Manitoba beat Saint Mary's 28-14 at the Rogers Centre.

"Now might be time for (the CIS) to take this over again," McGregor said. "It's not just for next year; we don't have a home for the Vanier Cup for the next few years and that concerns me."

This year's game will be played Saturday at Hamilton's Ivor Wynne Stadium, with the Laval

Rouge et Or taking on the University of Western Ontario Mustangs. McGregor supports the idea of shuffling the season-ending finale across

the country.

"It's not good for the game to be in the same venue each year and maybe a way to go is to partner with the CFL, she said.

But McGregor quickly ruled out a partnership with the 2009 Grey Cup in Calgary.

"We'd have to play on a Friday night and Calgary weather worries me — it's not an attractive option," she said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Senators' decline may bring changes

Last place. Let it roll off the tongue.

Going into tonight's game against the Montreal Canadiens — one in which they'll be without both Mike Fisher and Chris Neil — that's exactly where the Ottawa Senators find themselves in the Eastern Conference.

Man things haven't been this bad since Dave Allison spent the entire practice doing 3-on-2 drills. Things haven't been this bad since Alexander Daigle was going minus-30. Things haven't been this bad since Pavol Demitra had hair, but no hands and no work ethic.

There is a major difference here, of course. The Senators teams that were the laughingstock of the league in the mid-1990s

were playing up to their full potential.

The one that goes into tonight with just six wins and four goals in its past five games, is not. And all is not lost with the Senators, either. For all of their troubles, they're just three points out of the playoffs.

On the flip side, though, they're only one point ahead of the team that right now has the best chance to land either John Tavares or Victor Hedman

in next June's draft. The real question is, how did this go so wrong, so drastically, so quickly? This time last year, the Senators were on top of the NHL, albeit beginning a descent into H-E-double hockey sticks that continues to this day.

That has everyone from Bryan Murray to Murray McLaughlin flummoxed, but something has to give here before disaster strikes.

Three seasons ago, the Senators had the best and deepest defense corps in the league. Their goaltending, while not the problem lately, continues to be suspect. The depth of talent they once had at forward has gone dry and Antoine Vermette, it appears, isn't going to get any better.

They won't trade Daniel

Alfredsson and they can't trade Dany Heatley without his approval, so that leaves Jason Spezza.

Trading Spezza would be a drastic move no doubt, one fraught with peril, because you know he's going to get 100 points a year wherever he goes. But the Senators are running low on options and they don't exactly have a bountiful farm system, so what do they do?

They have to at least consider the possibility of moving Spezza, not to shake things up, but to use what he would get in return to fill some of the other glaring holes in their lineup.

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QMJHL split series against Russian squad

The Quebec Major Junior Hockey League finished with a split in the ADT Canada-Russia Challenge, falling 4-3 last night in Saint John, N.B. The six-game series now moves to Ontario and Western Canada. **METRO HALIFAX**

sports **11**

Moose are long in the tooth

Digging out from Marchand trade takes a little patchwork

MATTHEW WUEST
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By now, you've probably heard ad nauseam that the Halifax Mooseheads are a young, rebuilding team. What you probably haven't heard flies in the face of that.

The stats say the Mooseheads are actually the second oldest team in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League with an average age of 18.24 years, second only to the Montreal Junior. They're also tied for the league lead with eight 19-year-olds, at least five of whom won't be on the roster next season.

So with the Mooseheads second-to-last in the QMJHL standings with seven wins in 25 games, what gives?

Turns out, it's no picnic digging out from a failed run at a Memorial Cup, particularly when a handful of draft picks went out the door in a trade for Brad Marchand.

"It's not the best situation," one rival general manager said, "but it all comes down to the Marchand trade. They tried to please their fans and it was the right thing to do, but it didn't work out. It's something they have to live with."

Some might call it an identity crisis, but it's fair to say the Mooseheads are both old and rebuilding.

They've had to patch some holes with veterans, but they have yet to cut a younger player in favour of an older player. All of their top prospects — except for high draft pick Alex Lemieux, who left on



Halifax Mooseheads general manger Marcel Patenaude has his work cut out for him as he tries to rebuild the club after a failed run at the Memorial Cup last season.

his own volition — are on the roster.

The Mooseheads are also tied for second in the league with 10 rookies. All of them are aged 18 or younger. Mooseheads GM Marcel Patenaude is quick to stress he has "a good base of 16-, 17- and 18-

year-olds" to build around.

Rookie forwards Jessyko Bernard and Gabriel Desjardins are thriving in prominent roles, while Alexis Piette, Charles Bety and Ned O'Brien are flashing upside. Blue-liner Alex MacDonald and goalie Mathieu Corbeil are also

bright spots.

"We have a good mix of older guys and younger guys, but we have to be careful and make sure the younger guys are still improving and playing good minutes," Patenaude said.

Those crucial minutes are likely going to get a

Upcoming draft class lacking depth, star power

- The Halifax Mooseheads might not miss out on much after trading away next year's first-round draft pick.

The Mooseheads, who are sliding toward the lottery for the No. 1 overall pick, dealt the selection to the Val-d'Or Foreurs last year in exchange for star forward Brad Marchand.

"It's not a deep draft, and there's no No. 1 right now," one GM said. "I couldn't even tell you who's going to be in the top five, and that says a lot at this time of year."

If the Mooseheads manage to deal top forward Logan MacMillan, it's possible they'll recoup a high pick.

Otherwise, the Mooseheads are confident in their ability to land first-round talent in later rounds, as they feel they did last summer with Gabriel Desjardins and Jessyko Bernard.

boost in about seven weeks, after the final Q trade period closes. But that will only happen if Patenaude finds a way to move older players to acquire — and make room for — youth.

Top forward Logan MacMillan is his most valuable trade bait, but the remaining group may be harder to peddle.

"I don't know what's going to happen at the trade period," Patenaude said. "But we'll listen to all teams, see what they have to offer, and make a decision at that time."

Rainmen roster almost set

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

BASEKTBALL The Halifax Rainmen's roster is almost complete.

The Rainmen signed a pair of guards yesterday to give them 11 players, one short of a full 12-man roster for their January debut in the Premier Basketball League.

Six-foot-three Jabulah Murray of Toronto and six-foot-six Rodney Mayes, products of NCAA Division II schools, are the latest to join the fold. Athleticism is the word on both.

Mayes played most recently with

the Decatur (Ga.) Court Kings of the World Basketball Association after earning all-American accolades at West Virginia Tech.

"He's another (Eric) Crookshank, only at the guard position," Levingston said. "Everything is above the rim. He can get his shoulders up around the rim. This kid gets up."

Murray once shared the backcourt with former Rainmen star Jermaine Anderson at Eastern Commerce High School and had an NBA D-League tryout. Rainmen owner Andre Levingston also coached him in high school for a year.

Levingston called him a "young guy" who "needs to develop" and said his future depends on his commitment.

Levingston said the Rainmen now have "two starting fives," with one more two-guard to sign. He said getting the players to "buy in" to team concepts will be a key.



Mooseheads eye Ontario rearguard

QMJHL The Halifax Mooseheads are taking a look at free-agent blue-liner George Dunn at practice this week.

The 6-foot-3, 192-pound 18-year-old has a goal and five assists along with 24 penalty minutes in 14 games in the Ontario junior B ranks with Niagara Falls.

If he performs well this week, he could join the team now or after Christmas.

Mooseheads GM Marcel Patenaude said Dunn has "good skating ability, good puck movement and good size."

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Metro Homes

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Stick 'em up

Today's wall decals are dramatic and versatile

HomeScape



sputz@arrestingdesign.com

Most people associate wall stickers or decals with their childhood. Remember those Cinderella or other fairytale stickers? They were cute ... for a while.

Then there were those butterfly or flower bathroom stickers, and let's face it — they were never even remotely cute.

Well, thankfully, things have changed. Take a look in any Home Depot or check out online companies such as Ottawa-based Wall Juice, walljuice.com, or California-based Design With a Z, DesignWithaZ.com and you can find striking, stylish and dramatic wall art that's easy to stick up.

One defining characteristic of stylish and dramatic decals is that they're unapologetically large. They have to be big, in fact, to pack enough punch. Think life-sized or larger.

For example, I love Wall Juice's traditional "fake furniture" decals, which variously depict a coat rack, a mirror, a fireplace, a fake headboard or three chairs.

What I love about this line is that it lends a bit of a visual pun, adding the look of traditional furniture and furnishings in a space that may be anything but.

I'm also keen on the myriad nature-themed offerings from Wall Juice.

Trees and branches are available in a range of chic variations, some very Zen-looking, such as the pleasing silhouette of a bare hardwood tree in winter.

In these styles, you can opt for striking dark colours or for more subtle choices, which create a shadow-like effect. I'd say that the softer approach tends to work in a wider range of settings, while bold tones are more suited to contemporary or

Green Christmas

Want to be festive and green at the same time? Philips makes coloured LED bulbs that cost about \$10 and fit any standard-size fixture. See homedepot.ca. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



These wall stickers by Ottawa-based Wall Juice, walljuice.com, show just how striking modern decals have become.

modern decor.

Wall Juice's prices range from \$40 to \$150, plus \$15 for shipping, and you can receive your order in five to eight days.

Design With a Z uses both American and European designers so their decals can have a bit of a Euro look, including lots of geometric designs.

Closer to home, Home Depot carries a range of wall decals, including the

Blik line (Daisy for \$24.95, or Paisley in several different colours for \$49.95).

But whichever manufacturer, design and colour you choose, remember that the drama inherent in large-scale wall stickers means they'll undoubtedly become the focus of a room. That's what they're designed for.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in home decor and design. She has written extensively for the TV show Arresting Design.

Popular real estate site set for relaunch

ONLINE Her name is Briana Tomkinson, and she's an addict, a point she freely admits — promotes, even — online. Her addiction, though, isn't one likely to cause the typical ills associated with junkiedom; online, Briana sporadically maintains a blog called *MLS Addict*, broadcasting her affliction: A devotion beyond reason to MLS.ca, the website maintained by the Canadian Real Estate Association, which lists properties for sale nationwide (MLS stands for Multiple Listing Service).

According to Comscore, which tracks web traffic, MLS.ca garners three million unique hits every month. When the site relaunched last month with a confusing array of new features, the response revealed what Tomkinson always knew: Her kind are legion.

And, says Bob Linney of CREA, they were angry.

"Since (the relaunch), we've gotten 16,000 e-mails either complaining or asking for help," Linney sighs.

CREA is trying to iron out the rough spots for a quiet reintroduction of the new site, redubbed RealTOR.ca, today.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Holiday Shopping Guide I

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Savings abound for frugal shoppers

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

The recent economic downturn may just prove beneficial to Canadians looking to save some cash this holiday season.

The fallout from world-wide market crashes has forced shoppers to scale back their spending habits. While Canada hasn't taken the hit as badly as its neighbour to the south, the saving trend will continue through the holidays as families expect their financial situation to deteriorate, experts say. An October survey by the Conference Board of Canada shows that consumer confidence is at its lowest level since 1982.



Retailers are hoping after-Christmas shoppers will help them regroup after a somewhat disappointing holiday shopping season thus far.

Retailers must rise to the challenge, says Derek Nighbor, senior vice-president of national affairs at the Retail Council of Canada. Along with economic realities, there's a psychological impact. A shopper, even if

they're flush, will stay tight with the buck in tough times. Stores will have to make adjustments to lure in customers, which often means deeper discounts at the cash register.

"Anytime consumer con-

fidence is low you're going to see some drop-offs, so retailers will have to fight harder to attract traffic," he said. "What they'll often do is designate loss leaders — selling selected items at a loss to get people into the store. Once customers are there, they might buy a few more things."

Discount-oriented merchants stand to gain the most, says Nighbor, and if you're looking for a deal, you may want to reconnoiter with your local mom-and-pop shops. Such establishments are often on a first-name basis with their clientele and can be more flexible in their marketing. Don't expect steals at electronics retailers — Nighbor



adds technology items are becoming necessities and not wants.

You may not find any deals in the toy section either. No matter what the economic situation may be, parents will splurge on their child at Christmas, says Elizabeth Evans, director of the Ted Rogers School of Retail Management at Ryerson University.

"Christmas is a season where we celebrate giving gifts to children," she said. "Parents like to buy things

for their kids. Toys would be one of the last things they'll cut back on."

And don't those toy manufacturers know it. Reidin Goode, senior marketing manager of the girls division at Mattel Canada, says her company is undeterred by the downturn. She predicts a successful year, particularly in its Barbie lines.

"We're continuing to infuse innovation and a new freshness," she said. "We're banking on a really great Christmas."

Steven and Chris share tips for a fabulous and cheap holiday party

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

You can host a fabulous Christmas party on the cheap and Steven and Chris have some tips on how to do it.

Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman, hosts of CBC Television talk show Steven and Chris, talked with Metro about how to entertain your family and friends without going over budget in tough financial times.

"This year of all years, Christmas is not about the



Steven Sabados, left, and Chris Hyndman.

presents but about the people who count," said Hyndman.

Stick to the basics when you throw a seasonal soiree, says the decorating duo: Ask guests to bring

their own booze and formal attire (they note people love to dress up), and above all else, don't sweat the small stuff. "The less stressed you are about having a Christmas party, the

more fun it will be," notes Hyndman.

Sabados says dimming your lights and lighting some candles creates an intimate and sophisticated atmosphere. You don't even need to deck all your halls. Focus on the living room to decorate — a beautiful centerpiece can help you, as can the right floral arrangement.

"Paperwhites are the all-time favorite bulb for indoor forcing," the pair writes via e-mail. "Their large clusters of pure white flowers and their sweet, musky smell make

them a holiday favourite. Plant bulbs in decorative pots a week apart (to ensure at least one pot is blooming when you need them) in late November and early December. They will flower in 4 to 6 weeks with seldom a miss and you'll feel better knowing that your fresh holiday flowers are taken care of

well in advance."

You can also keep a simple spread for your hungry party-goers, says the pair. Pan-fried nuts and small pastries can fill bellies for relatively little money and effort. You can also get creative with noodles with Sabados' chocolate lasagna, which serves 6-8 (recipe available at metronews.ca).



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Photo: Keith Cossey

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Holiday Shopping Guide I

Gift ideas big and small for the tech savvy

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

HP TouchSmart IQ816 computer (\$2,199)

There's not a lot of zing in the desktop computer market these days, though HP's TouchSmart line is an exception — the first practical consumer machine that delivers on the whole 2001: A Space Odyssey vibe that we've been wishing for since the first consumer Windows machines hit the market 20 years ago.

The IQ816 has a massive 25.5 inch screen, with everything but the power supply built, iMac-style, into the back. There's a wireless keyboard and mouse included, but they're vestigial appendages, since you're supposed to use the touchscreen as your main user interface.



It actually works — the second generation of TouchSmart machines are a vast improvement over the first, and the interface that HP has designed to run over top of Windows Vista is built around big icons and widget-like applications. (HP also has a 22 inch model that's \$600 cheaper, if the price makes you hyperventilate.)

I set the machine up as a family computer in our kitchen, where the kid immediately took to the touchscreen interface to play games, while the parents quickly configured it to deliver news and weather info on startup in the morning.

It made a quick wireless connection with the main computer downstairs so we could play videos effortlessly — HP includes a full-featured remote for media centre functions, and a dock for one of their media drives.

On a more mundane note, the touchscreen makes computer solitaire utterly addictive.

Toshiba Qosmio X300 notebook (\$1,999)

There's nothing subtle about the X300; with its flamed red and orange metallic finish and array of totally unnecessary red LEDs, it takes its design cues from hot rods, not space ships. It's not restrained inside either — there's an unlocked and therefore overclockable Centrino X9100 3.06 GHz processor and an NVidia 9800M graphics card, which translated into normal person means it's fast.

It's a gaming laptop, with four USB ports and an HDMI out, in case you're not jazzed enough about the 17-inch LCD widescreen.

There are also dual hard drives totalling 640GB and

a 5.1 Altec Lansing speaker system. Toshiba is a Blu-ray refusenik, so the drive is regular DVD, and the screen has that superglossy finish that means you'll be seeing your own face in the shadows when watching movies.

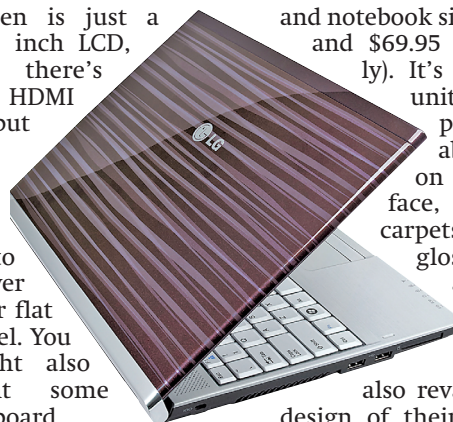
Apart from these quibbles, this is the monster (4.12 kg!) desktop replacement machine every boy dreams about.



LG P300 notebook (\$1,799)

On the other end of the scale there's this very light (1.6 kg) laptop, with its sleek lacquered finish and 2.26 GHz Intel Core Duo processor. The screen is just a 13.3 inch LCD, but there's an HDMI output so you can use it to power your flat panel. You might also want some outboard speakers to supplement the pallid ones built into the P300.

The slim profile and light weight is mostly due to the DVD drive being provided as an outboard accessory. There's two-GB of ram and a 32-GB hard drive as well as Bluetooth connectivity, which should help justify the rather impressive price tag.



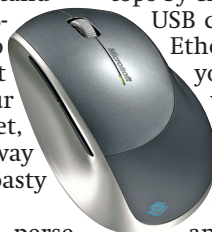
Accessories

Belkin has a couple of laptop pads that range from the active to the passive. **The Cushtop** (\$34.99) is an attractive little up-holstered lap desk for your notebook that includes a slot to slip the machine when not in use.

The **Laptop Cooling Lounge** (\$39.99) is probably the perfect accessory for a gaming laptop like the Qosmio X300 — an adjustable plastic stand that includes a USB-powered fan to help draw the heat away from your overclocked chipset, out the sides and away from your once-toasty lap.

Microsoft has persevered with mouse technology, releasing the **Blue Track mouse** in desktop and notebook sizes (\$89.95 and \$69.95 respectively). It's a wireless unit that's supposed to be able to track on any surface, including carpets and glossy stone, and it lives up to the hype. They've

also revamped the design of their webcams with the two megapixel **LifeCam Show** (\$99.95), a discrete little pill of a unit that comes with a variety of mounting options, including stick-on magnets, a clip, and a stick-like stand in case your monitor is too thick or too pretty.



HP's **C6380 all-in-one printer/scanner** (\$199.99) adds wi-fi connectivity to its range of features, neatly networking with your range of desktops and laptops by either the standard USB cable, through an Ethernet port on your router, or wirelessly.

It sets up without a fuss, has a dedicated tray for 4x6 prints, and comes with software that lets you create PDF copies of documents for e-mailing.

Finally, I've spent the last two months with Crumpler's **Dreadful Embarrassment** laptop bag (\$95) — part of their range of cutely-named bags and luggage.

It's a messenger-style affair with room for up to a 17 inch laptop, and plenty of room for accessories, magazines, pens and a cup of microwave soup for lunch. Like most of the Crumpler line, it's assertively colourful, and miles better-looking than the usual uptight laptop bag.



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Holiday Shopping Guide I



This year, Elmo Live (\$69.99) is expected to be a big hit.

Creative toys, games tops

Big-name toys expected to fly off shelves as well this season

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

This holiday season, it's all about toys that amuse and engage, say experts on both sides of the border.

As parents make beelines to their local department stores this shopping season, they'll likely find toys that encourage hands-on learning side by side with the Bratz and Star Wars playsets. Construction sets, collectible card games and interactive DVD games are all becoming part of the fun.

"We've got educational toys, we've got learning to read toys, we've got building toys, imagination

toys," Jeff Hurst, president of the Canadian Toy Association, said at a Nov. 3 media conference in Toronto previewing some of the hot toys for the holidays. "I certainly think we've got a good representation of what's going to be on the Christmas list as we go into this year."

The association expects the season's big sellers to include Struxx Robotrixx, a construction set where kids can build roaring motion-detection dinosaurs out of rods, balls and sockets, and Disgusting Digestion, a science kit of bile-inducing experiments that educate the user about the human digestive system.

Kathleen McHugh, president of the Chicago-based American Specialty Toy Retailing Association, expects trends to lean toward more creative, open-ended toys. In an economy where parents are feeling the pinch, she says, a new focus is on toys with longer-lasting value.



Bratz World House Play Set, \$44.99.

"More is not the answer to everything. There's going to be a return to quality over quantity," she said. "The right kind of toy will do different things. Board games will also prove popular. Because of the consumer situation, more families will be spending time together at home. There are a lot of great board games out there to do that."

Those looking for more mainstream — and more expensive — toys will not be disappointed. Elmo Live, an interactive version of the Sesame Street Muppet that

sings and tells jokes, Bakugan Battle Brawlers, a collectible strategy game of cards and pop-up robots, and Bratz World, a mix-and-match fashion playset, are among the items expected to fly off the shelves this year.

"We believe Elmo Live is going to do well this season," says Donna Polimac, a senior marketer for Fisher Price, which is parented by Elmo Live-maker Mattel. "With seven times the content of Tickle Me Elmo, it's probably going to be our biggest seller."

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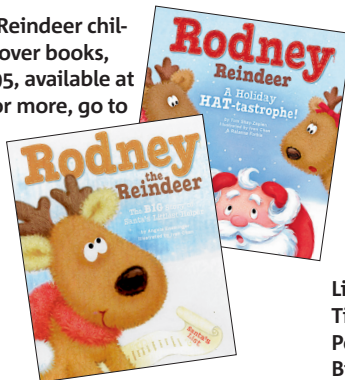


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Holiday Shopping Guide I

Kid-friendly gifts

Rodney the Reindeer children's hardcover books, \$14.99-\$15.95, available at Hallmark. For more, go to hallmark.ca.



In the Night Garden blanket time Iggle Piggle, by Playskool. Available at Zellers for \$34.99.



Little Mommy Baby Knows Doll by Mattel, \$34.99. For more, go to toyexpress.ca.



This is Serious Ming-Ming by Fisher-Price, \$55. For more, go to toyexpress.ca.

Little Tikes Pop Tunes Big Rocker Drum and Pop Tunes Guitar, both \$24.99.



Crayola Color Wonder Magic Light Brush, \$24.99, and Crayola Glow Station, far right, \$29.99.



Amazing Animals Spinnin' Around Musical Zoo by Fisher-Price, \$60. For more, go to toyexpress.ca.



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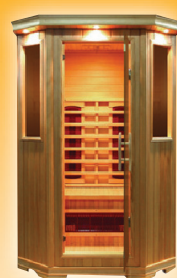
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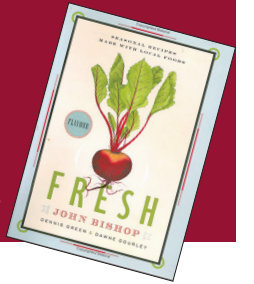


Dish entertains: Everyday simple to special occasions by Trish Magwood (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.) took the silver prize at the 11th annual Canadian Culinary Book Awards. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Food

Fresh: Seasonal recipes made with local foods by John Bishop and Dennis Green won the Gold award at the 11th annual Canadian Culinary Book Awards.

Metro News Services



EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Put this on your plate, mate

À la carte



Like Canada, immigration has brought a world of cultures and cuisines to Australia. Celebrity chefs, cookbook authors and food writers have also been influential in creating a 'Mod Oz' cuisine. Add wonderful seafood, plenty of produce and grazing land, and Australia has become one of the most diverse and cosmopolitan places in the world to eat.

Donna Hay is Australia's leading food stylist, food



This recipe is adapted from Donna Hay's cookbook.

editor and best-selling cookbook author. Her food, recipes and styling focuses on basic ingredients, simply prepared and beautifully photographed. Her 16 cookbooks have sold more than 3.3 million copies and have been translated into nine languages.

Lemon Pork and Roasted Vegetables

This recipe is adapted from

one of Donna Hay's latest series of six cookbooks: Simple Essentials, Beef, Lamb + Pork (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd). As fresh lemon thyme is difficult to find this time of year, try regular thyme or a pinch of dried thyme leaves and a little grated lemon zest. Makes 4 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 fingerling or medium

- white potatoes, scrubbed
- 4 unpeeled garlic cloves
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 large (1 lb/500 g) pork tenderloin, cut into 4 pieces
- 4 slices pancetta
- 4 sprigs fresh lemon thyme
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes (about 2-1/2 cups/625 mL)

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Cut fingerling potatoes in half lengthwise or regular potatoes into wedges. Toss potatoes and garlic in oil. Place in a large baking dish; season with salt and pepper. Roast 20 minutes.

Top each piece of pork with 1 slice pancetta and a thyme sprig. Tie with kitchen string. Add pork to pan and roast 10 minutes.

Add tomatoes and cook another 10 to 15 minutes or until pork is cooked through and potatoes are tender and golden. Push garlic out of skins and serve with pork, potatoes and tomatoes.

MORE ...

Other influential chefs and food professionals from 'down under:'

- **Bill Granger** has three restaurants, bills, in and around Sydney, plus five cookbooks and two TV series to his credit.

- **Neil Perry** is an Aussie super chef. Owner of Rockpool, one of Sydney's (since 1989) and more recently Melbourne's, most highly acclaimed restaurants.

- Author of four cookbooks, **Christine Mansfield** is another of Australia's

celebrated chefs. She also produces a range of spice pastes and condiments under the label Christine Mansfield Spice Collection.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

new arrival

- Ex-pat Australians and Canadian chocolate lovers will celebrate the arrival of Australia's favourite biscuit: Tim Tams. Launched in 1963, the chocolate biscuit sells nearly 35 million packs per year in its native land. The popular treat is now available in major grocery and drug stores across Canada, including IGA and Sobey's.



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So you think you can cook?

Canadians are invited to put their best chili recipes to the test in the first-ever ZANTAC® Chili Challenge. To enter, visit Chilichallenge.ca and submit an original chili recipe for a chance to cook-off with Anthony Sedlak, celebrity chef and host of The Food Network's The Main. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Friend in need, friend to feed

Gordon Ramsay — a man that needs no introduction — lives life in the fast lane, travelling the world to foster his many hugely successful business enterprises and to film his highly acclaimed TV series.

But despite the commitments of a busy work life, he has always believed that families should sit around their tables to eat together as much as possible. In *Cooking for Friends*, Ramsay shares more than 100 inspiring and well-constructed recipes that he loves to cook (and eat) when he's off duty. Harper Collins Canada gave Metro this recipe:

Coffee and Almond Crunch Cake

For me, this is the definitive cake to have with coffee or tea. It is all-at-once tender, moist and crunchy. It keeps well for several days in a cool part of the kitchen. Some people like a dollop of lightly sweetened mascarpone on the side, though, for me, it's perfect on its own.

INGREDIENTS:

Cake:

- 170g unsalted butter
 - 170g caster sugar
 - 3 large eggs, lightly beaten
 - 1/2 tsp almond essence
 - 100g ground almonds
 - 4 tbsp cooled espresso or strong coffee
 - 100g self-raising flour
 - 1/2 tsp baking powder
- Crunch topping:**
- 60g plain flour
 - 40g light brown or demerara sugar
 - 40g cold unsalted butter, diced

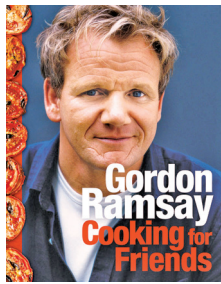
METHOD:

Preheat the oven to 150C. Butter and line the sides and base of a tall-sided 20cm cake tin with a removable base. For the crunch topping, mix the flour and sugar in a bowl and rub in the butter until it resembles coarse bread crumbs. Set aside.

Cream the butter and sugar in a large mixing bowl using a hand-held electric beater until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, a little at a



Gordon Ramsay's Coffee and Almond Crunch Cake is all-at-once tender, moist and crunchy. His book *Cooking For Friends* is available online at Amazon.ca for \$22.02 or in stores for \$34.95.



time, until fully incorporated. Add the almond essence and mix well. Fold in the ground almonds, followed by half the espresso. Sift in the flour and baking powder together and fold this through the

wet mixture. Finally, fold in the remaining espresso. Spread the mixture into the cake tin and level with

a spatula. Sprinkle the crunch topping evenly over the top. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes until the top is golden brown and a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean. Remove from the oven and leave to cool slightly before unmoulding on to a wire rack, peeling away the baking parchment.

When completely cooled, dust with icing sugar, then cut into slices to serve.

The science of delicious

How do you make the perfect French fry? Is it better to salt a steak before or after grilling?

The Science of Good Food,

written by David Joachim and Andrew Schloss, is the first book to present the science of good cooking in an easy-to-use, A to Z format.

Metro got a hold of this excerpt about one of the most beloved desserts: The cheesecake.

What It Is

With its cookie crumb or pastry crust and dairy-based filling, cheesecake is more custard tart than cake. Pastries have been filled with various cheeses for centuries, and cheesecakes can be sweet or savoury. Most are sweet and made around the world with various fresh cheeses. For savoury cheesecakes, you can combine ingredients such as cream cheese

and smoked salmon or Cheddar cheese and bacon. You can also make cheesecake with oth-

er creamy ingredients like silken tofu.

What It Does

Like other custards made with eggs and dairy products, cheesecakes require even gentle heat to prevent curdling. They are often baked in a water bath to evenly distribute the heat around the cake pan and provide moist steam to keep the baked custard from drying out. To avoid lumps, it helps to bring the cheese and eggs to room temperature before mixing the filling and to add the eggs one at a time. Gradual temperature changes also help prevent cracks. If the pan is too small, the filling will rise too high and will overcook on the edges before the centre is done. If the pan is too big, the entire filling may quickly overcook and crack.

On the web

Recipe:

- Now that you know a bit about cheesecakes, why not make one? Find a recipe from the book for Southern Comfort Cheesecake at metronews.ca.

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Style



90210 inspires hot shades

Can't get enough of the hottest zip code in teh United States? Well now fans of the hit TV show Beverly Hills, 90210 can add some chic California style into their own lives with three nail lacquer shades inspired by the lead female characters on the show: Silver, Annie and Naomi. The 90210 by OPI collection includes Pretty & Privileged (ruby red), left, Queen of West Web-erly (purple shimmer) and Sweet as Annie-thing! (lollipop red). Available beginning January 2009 at professional salons and spas for \$9.95.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Liven up the season with colour



Modish chic
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aldoshoes.com



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Designer: Banana Republic
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Address: Various Locations
bcbg.com



Tiered Ruffles
Designer: Gap
Shop: Gap
Address: Various Locations
gap.com



Flattering Stripes
Designer: Guess
Shop: Guess
Address: Various locations
guess.ca



Simple and Elegant
Designer: Maggy London
Shop: The Bay
Address: Various Locations
thebay.com

holiday dresses

I am just like everyone else when it comes to holiday parties, I either pull out one of my six LBDs (little black dresses) or shop for another one. So I thought this year instead of looking for a LBD with a different cut, I'm going for a completely different colour and I think you should too. Let's liven up the holiday parties this season with dashes of colour and cute flirty cuts like these three strapless dresses. The sweetheart neckline (Guess and Maggy London) is my absolute favourite cut for a strapless dress; it's perfect for smaller cup sizes and gives shape and volume to the body.

Style File

Kim Elbo



kim.elbo@metronews.ca

ask kim

I'm invited to my boyfriend's family holiday party and it'll be the first time I'm meeting the whole family. I don't want to give off the wrong first impression; can you give me any suggestions?

The safest bet is to go completely conservative. Try a simple black pant with a dressy top or a dress with a modest neckline and length. The fact that you're asking this question means that you care a lot so ask your boyfriend for his opinion as well.

E-mail your style questions to kim.elbo@metronews.ca.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt



Watches make a comeback, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

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A wintertime 'must-have' for FitFlop fanatics everywhere

Pre-Order Now!!! For those who wore their FitFlop sandals sun-up to sundown last summer, indoors and out, FitFlop's new all-purpose superluxe slip-on Convertiboot makes cold, aching feet feel instantly fantastic! Featuring DuPont's Hydrology-treated shearling (for water and stain resistance) with fluffy lining and cuff, all built on top of FitFlop's celebrated microwobbleboard midsole. Sizes 5-10. Camel, Taupe, Black and Chocolate. \$139.99

Roll the cuff down, it's a thick and fluffy slipper, roll it up, it's a casual outdoor boot.

Supply will be limited this season, so if you love the look of them, we'd suggest signing up now, before they've all been sold.

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Here comes the new Boss

Bruce Springsteen plans to release a new album in January. Working On A Dream features 12 new songs, plus two bonus tracks. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**



23

Entertainment

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Swift has no fear

MusicReviews

music@metronews.ca

Taylor Swift

Album: Fearless

Label: Open Road/Universal

Rating: ●●●●●

EVERY NOW

AND then a mistake happens in the music business and a truly talented young artist manages to sneak past the industry radar and take the world by storm. So it was with Taylor Swift who signed with little known label Big Machine in Nashville. Last year, her song Tim McGraw went straight to the top and stayed there pretty much ever since. She's 18 now, with a second album that's sure to spit out four or five hit singles that will dominate both the country and pop charts all of next year. Swift writes about the high school stuff she understands, but in a way that appeals to all ages. A remarkable sophomore effort.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada



I Am... Sasha Fierce is the new album from Beyoncé.

Beyoncé

Album: I Am... Sasha Fierce

Label: Columbia/Sony BMG

Rating: ●●●●

WHEN

ONCE

VEALED

she had an alter ego — Sasha Fierce — you couldn't help but roll your eyes. Now, though, she's taken things a step further by releasing a two-disc affair, with one side as her sweet, laid-back self and the other as her more ag-



gressive, sexualized persona. One album would have worked, but here she pulls a Foo Fighters — the first half is full of bland, slow-moving adult contemporary pop; the second is loaded with amped-up R&B barnburners. In the end neither disc really delivers, though the second record has the more interesting and infectious tunes.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada



Read our reviews of David Cook, Dido, Beast and Nickelback at metronews.ca/music

"A FULL-BLOWN POP CULTURE PHENOMENON."
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Robert Pattinson is rebel cool incarnated — the James Dean of the undead."
VANITY FAIR

twilight

SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS "TWILIGHT"
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DIRECTED BY: JULIE DAVID; PRODUCED BY: KAREN ROSS; WRITTEN BY: MARY BUCKER; BASED ON THE NOVEL "TWILIGHT" BY STEPHENIE MEYER; SCREENPLAY BY: MELISSA ROSENBERG; PRODUCED BY: CATHERINE HADONVINE
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Where friends play!





Angelina Jolie has confirmed reports that she will replace Tom Cruise in the espionage thriller *Edwin A. Salt*. The film's writers reworked the lead character — a CIA officer falsely accused of spying for the Russians — to be female. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Jolie to replace Cruise



Above: Angela Malec (left), Nick Jarrett, and Jenny Malec aboard the Harbour Hopper at the Holiday Parade of Lights.



Left: Cecilia and Robert Bell at the Neptune Theatre Frost/Nixon Gala.



Right: Candice Lake and Faith Anderson at Casino Nova Scotia for Classic Albums Live.

Right: Rhonda Naugle-Gilby and Derek Gilby raise a glass to Frost/Nixon at Neptune Theatre



Left: Gabrielle MacLellan and Tom Daniels watch Little Derek on stage at the Rodeo Lounge.

Bras, blues, blaming and book signings

HalifaxScene

Jamie Paterson



This week was all about being the “breast” you can be! It was Titz and Glitz time again. And once again this year I can only imagine my invitation was lost in the mail. This year the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront was turned into the Pink Flamingo, where breast

cancer survivors and supporters were invited out to shake their cha-chas.

Winners picked up costume awards for Viva Bra Diva, Bra-mazing Race and the very seasonal Santa Bras.

I almost forgot Wednesday night at Casino Nova Scotia. It was flashback time as Classic Albums Live flawlessly recreated Led Zeppelin IV. Then I swung by Neptune Theatre to catch a special VIP reception for the production Frost/Nixon.

It was the perfect marriage of blues and country Thursday night at the Rodeo Lounge for the

Leukemia Live Country Concert. The brains behind the event is leukemia patient Derek Caine who found taking up the blues harmonica instrumental in fighting his disease. So far concert and CD sales have raised tens of thousands of dollars for the QE II to help leukemia patients who need extra financial support in their cancer battle.

Political junkies were lined up at the Chapters in Bayers Lake to catch a glimpse of former Prime Minister Paul Martin. Martin was signing copies of his new book which basically blames everything on former PM Jean Chretien!



Above: Christopher Spencer laughs it up with KOOL FM's Caroline Parker at the Frost/Nixon VIP reception.

When he's not making the Scene, Jamie Paterson hosts The Drive and The Beatlebrunch on KOOL FM in Halifax

www.1013thebounce.com

Above: Freedom-Kai Phillips and Julie van der Hoop at Boomers Lounge.

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MacIsaac to perform at fundraiser

CONCERT Ashley MacIsaac is taking the stage for a rare performance tonight at Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth as the Cape Breton fiddler headlines a fundraiser for Forum for Young Canadians, a program which brings teenagers to Ottawa and Parliament Hill to learn how government works.

MacIsaac will be joined by fellow fiddlers Jerry Holland, who is the show's promoter, Dougie MacDonald and Marc Boudreau. Other performances include piano player Allan Dewar and singer-songwriter Aaron MacDonald. Show time is 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$22.60. Phone at 1-888-311-9090 or visit ticketpro.ca.

METRO HALIFAX

In brief

BALLET Ballet Jorgen Canada presents Ballet in the Studio tonight at the Lilian Piercey Concert Hall at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts on Chebucto Road at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and \$15. Call 445-4191.

DOCUMENTARY Harvard-trained theologian Stephen Jenkinson will be on hand tonight at the screening of the National Film Board of Canada documentary about him titled Griefwalker at Empire Park Lane at 7 p.m. It will be followed by a discussion.

MUSIC Argyle Fine Art is hosting a music series titled Sight On Sound tonight at 8 p.m. with Kev Corbett, Ruth Minnikin, Dusty Keeler and Klarka Weinrum all performing. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

METRO HALIFAX

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies



on PC products in-store

see ad in Food section



Naughty by Nature had hits with songs like O.P.P.

Naughty by Nature set to perform at The Marquee

CONCERT Call it the re-birth of Naughty By Nature. "New and improved," said group member Vincent (Vinnie) Brown, as Naughty By Nature performs tonight at The Marquee Club at 10 p.m. "Right now, we're going hard body."

After more than six years without new material, the veteran hip hop group is set to release a new record titled Anthem Inc. in 2009.

The decision to go ahead with a new CD came when Kier (DJ Kay Gee) Gist rejoined the group this summer after several years of working independently. With Gee back in the fold, the Grammy-winning

team began work on a new record.

"We've touched up about 17 tracks and we're going to keep recording until the end of December," said Brown, with Anthony (Treach) Criss rounding out the trio. "So by the time we finish, we'll be picking 12 of the best 30 songs. And then the leftover will keep it going for the new batch because our mission is to keep a consistent flow of music going."

Naughty by Nature is best known for the hip-hop classics O.P.P. and Hip Hop Hooray, both of which will be performed tonight. Tickets are \$27.50 in advance and \$35 at the door.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX

Showtime goes blue?

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

DIRTY PICTURES: Showtime looks like the place to go on the dial for pervy entertainment next season, if two new projects pan out.

The ominipresent Seth Rogen — love the guy, but even I'm getting tired of seeing his face — is developing a new comedy about three post-collegiate buddies running a porn shop, according to a Variety story.

No word on who's set to star in the show, which is being executive produced by Rogen and his production partner Evan Goldberg, who worked on the screenplays for Superbad and Pineapple Express.

There's no reason to believe that this can't be good, especially if Rogen and Goldberg can tap into the strange relationship young men — and older

ones — have with porno in what's referred to as the "post-feminist" era.

Varying from bored ambivalence to connoisseurship, it's a relationship conditioned by the unprecedented ease with which porn can be consumed today.

It's also quaint that Rogen and Goldberg have chosen to set their show in a porn shop — the equivalent of a drama about the media being set in a letterpress typesetting shop.

The storefront porn merchant, like the record store and the video rental shop, is a quaint technological anachronism in the digital age; a porn website startup would have been more contemporary, though it might have ended up looking like a cross between NewsRadio and late night Showcase fare like Porno Valley.

Showtime is also developing a reality TV series about hookers, according to the porn industry website Reverse Cowgirl, with onetime Fox big deal Stephen Chao at the

helm.

Alas, Chao — the man behind Cops and America's Most Wanted — is having a hard time casting the show, which plans to rent a Hollywood Hills mansion for the cast to ply their trade.

"The show won't be demeaning or exploitative because, as the director explained it, they're looking to cast working girls without implants," according to the web site.

Well, that changes everything, doesn't it?

There is, of course, the little matter of legality, not to mention the effect celebrity — even the clammy, blush-inducing type that a Showcase adult series might bestow — would have in a profession that usually values anonymity.

It's like searching the ranks of Washington lobbyists for the stars of a show provisionally titled The Big Nasty Graft And Earmarks Spectacle Of Democracy Gone Rancid.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

critics'corner

South Park

The fate of the world lies in the hands of Cartman's ultracool binder. But this is no ordinary school tool. Oh, no. The "Trapper Keeper" is really a super-being bent on world domination. And as usual, it's up to Stan, Kyle, Kenny and, perhaps Cartman — if he can only bear to give up his beloved notebook — to help save the day. 10:30 PM on COMEDY



Doc Zone

There's a lot of nasty stuff on the Internet — and we're not talking about porn and hate-group sites. The new documentary "Web Warriors" investigates computer viruses and the professional hackers who make their living tracking them down, preventing their release when they can and minimizing the damage when they can't. You may not learn anything new, but you might be motivated to make sure your antivirus software is up to date. 9 PM on CBC

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation

In this new episode, evidence seems to point to the prime suspect in a murder case 12 years earlier as the possible killer of a mother and her child. Is the connection merely coincidental, or has a sinister, heartless killer resurfaced? 9 PM on CJCH; 10 PM on CBS

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/20/08	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Ugly Betty (N)	Grey's Anatomy (N)		Life on Mars
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Medium (N)	America's Next Top Model		Eleventh Hour
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Doc Zone (HDTV) (N)	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	Infoman (SC)	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)	Grosse vie (N)	C.A. (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Survivor: Gabon (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Eleventh Hour
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Occupation double		Vlog (SC)	TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Life on Mars (HDTV) (N)		Survivor: Gabon (N)	The Office (N)	Billable Hours	News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Dance	ER "Age of Innocence"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Grey's Anatomy (N)		News (N)
	10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television			Podium TV		EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Kitchen Nightmares (N)	Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		Fox First
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	30 Rock
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour David Foster.		CBC News: The National	Nature-Things
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Basic Black		Pioneers of Television		Live From Lincoln Center (N)	
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus		This Old Hse.	Hometime	Ask This Old	Michigan
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)	Rire et délire	Loft Story		Meurtre à l'étage (2005, Suspense)	Tracy Nelson.		Spain-On Road
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	GetConnected	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live	Cooper 360
	54	54	54	GOLF	Top 10	LPGA Tour Golf	ADT Championship -- First Round.		Golf Central	Top 10	U.S. Women's Open Highlights	
	52	52	52	RSE	Prime Time Sports	Overtime	NHL Hockey	Montreal Canadiens at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)				Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	Score on NFL	College Football	Miami at Georgia Tech. (Live)			
news	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pinks	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)	Wrecked
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Madden Nation	NFL Football	Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers. (HDTV) (Live)		
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoeys 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	6teen	Total Drama	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic
	26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Night Grdn	Toot & Puddle	Franklin	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Extreme"		The First 48 "Memphis"		The First 48 "Blindsided"	The First 48
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Suaangan	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	renegadeexpress	Demolition Man ** (1993, Science Fiction)	
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Top 10 countdown. (Live)			Dirty ** (2005, Crime Drama)	Cuba Gooding Jr..		Gangster
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Desperate Housewives		Snapshot	In the Mind ...	Intern Academy * (2004, Comedy), Pat Kelly	
sports	25	25	25	CMT	Reba: One,	Home	The Wilkinsons	The Wilkinsons	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Hope & Faith
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Force	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas		The Simpsons	South Park
	153	153	153	COURT	Truth, Duty, Valour		The Investigators		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Navy SEALs: Untold Stories	Investigators
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Ten Commandments of the Mafia			MythBusters
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY
	46	46	46	HIST	Finding the Fallen		NCIS "Witness"		Lost Worlds		Finding the Fallen	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Pimp My Ride	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	disBand	Live at Much: Twilight		50 Cent: Money and Power	50 Cent-Money
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		Back In	Mariah Carey: Mimi		Listed	Gene Simmons
	201	201	201	M1	(6) We Are Marshall		(8:15) Kaw (2007, Horror)	Sean Patrick Flanery.			Control (2007, Docudrama)	Sam Riley.
	48	23	23	OLN	The Amazing Race 5		Ed's Up	Videos	Commando: On the Front Line		Survivorman	Pilot Guides
family	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Mr. Deeds
	206	206	206	PIX	Man With Gold	(7:20) The Alamo *** (1960, Historical Drama)	John Wayne.				Bad Boys *** (1995, Action)	
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	EastEnders	Spaced	Painkiller Jane		ReGenesis (HDTV)		Trailer Park	Trailer Park
	40	40	40	SLICE	Matchmaker	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	ET Canada	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted "Debbi"	Biggest Loser
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1 A virus.		Lost "S.O.S."		Star Trek: Voyager		Battlestar Galactica	Chuck
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: NY "Obsession"		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)	
	57	98	98	STAR	Fashion	Look-A-Like	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Look-A-Like	Live at eTalk
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Overhaulin' Mustang.		American Chopper		American Chopper	Tonight Show
	56	34	34	TROP	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Toute une histoire		Club social		Complément d'enquête	
	28	28	28	V	Jozi-H (DVS)		Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	Keeping Up	Join Us (N)	
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing	Passion
	22	22	22	W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Bride" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)	WGN News

Celebrity Buzz

Spears' 'mistake' marriage

MARRIAGE Britney Spears says marrying Kevin Federline was a mistake, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, who has two sons, three-year-old Sean Preston and two-year-old Jayden James, with Federline, wishes she had never walked down the aisle with the former backing dancer.

"I think I married for the wrong reasons. Instead of following my heart and doing what made me really happy, I just did it for the sake of the idea of everything," Spears said in a promo for her new TV documentary *Britney: For the Record*.

Spears also revealed the divorce has influenced her music.

"Your music is a reflection of what you're going through," Spears added.

Spears and Federline married in September 2004 and split in summer 2006. Their divorce was finalized in July 2007.

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Mills turns tables on tabloids

CELEBRITY Sir Paul McCartney's ex-wife Heather Mills has made complaints against three U.K. national newspapers for inaccurate reporting, invasion of privacy and harassment, imdb.com reports.

Mills was heavily criticized in the press for her conduct during her messy divorce from the former Beatle, in which she won a settlement of \$38 million US.

The former glamour model has now asked

the U.K. media's governing body, the Press Complaints Commission, to investigate the Daily Express, Daily Mail and Britain's The Sun over stories the newspapers have published about her.

She has also complained to the PCC about the conduct of the free local newspaper London Lite. It will investigate her claims and the newspapers could face a reprimand if the allegations are proved.

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Martin planning to retire soon?

CAREER Chris Martin is reportedly planning to retire next year, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Coldplay frontman doesn't want to become an aging rock star and is keen to quit music before he feels too old.

"I'm 31 now and I don't think bands should keep going past 33," he reportedly said. "So we're trying to pack in as much as possible. Up until the end of next year, we'll just go for it in every

sense. I don't believe in time off. We've still got our own hair, we can still fit in to our musical trousers and we've got to make the most of that."

Martin added that his band has only had a successful year because its rivals have taken a break.

"The reason we're the biggest band in the world at the moment is because the others are on holiday," he said. "That's how you get your breaks. That's how the under-study gets his opportunity."

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Cyrus keeping her guard up

TRUST As she approaches her 16th birthday, Miley Cyrus says she is learning to keep her guard up, People.com reports.

"I think you have to be really careful about the people you trust," the Hannah Montana star, who turns 16 on Sunday, tells *Ellen DeGeneres* in an interview. "There (are) very few, two or three people that I would actually go to with anything and know that it would never

leave the room," she says. "Two of those are my parents."

And the other person in Cyrus's inner circle? Boyfriend Justin Gaston, 20. Giggling in her *Ellen* interview, Cyrus says the two have been dating for "a couple months."

She adds: "He's a singer, he's really cute, and he's nice and he's a Christian and I really like that."

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Duff wants more TV guest work

CAREER Hilary Duff is begging TV bosses to give her roles in hit shows *The Office* and *30 Rock*, after signing a deal with the network behind them, imdb.com reports.

Duff recently signed a new one-year contract with NBC, which will result in her fronting a new show.

The deal will also lead to Duff making appearances in other programs the network broadcasts. And she has already registered her preference.

When it comes to her own show, the former

Lizzie McGuire star wants to come up with something new and refreshing.

"I would like to do something funny ... or I would like to kick ass or something," the 21-year-old tells MTV News.

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Jackman named Sexiest Man Alive

CELEBRITY Actor Hugh Jackman has been named *People* magazine's Sexiest Man Alive. After pouring over a list of eligible, high-profile film stars, musicians and athletes, editors at the magazine named the 40-year-old its No. 1 of 2008.

Jackman succeeds last year's top man, actor Matt Damon. Meanwhile, Jackman has responded modestly to news of his sexy status: "My wife (Deborra-Lee Furness) said, 'I could have told them that two years ago.' Then she said, 'Obviously Brad Pitt wasn't available this year.'"

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Dates keep marriage fresh: Klum

MARRIAGE She has been married to Seal for three years, but Heidi Klum still feels like a newlywed, People.com reports.

"Sometimes I lie in bed and I'm like, 'Oh my god, there's Seal lying next to me. What's he doing there?'" Klum tells *In Style* in its December issue. "I get a smile on my face immediately. Our honeymoon period is definitely not

over."

How do Klum, 35, and Seal, 45, keep the spice in their relationship? "(We) have date nights," she says. "We go to dinner or to the movies. We like to keep it romantic. Some people wake up in the morning and turn over when they see their mate. That's not us."

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Love dismisses concerns she's suicidal

HEALTH Courtney Love has even made the merest suggestion of a crack pipe is insane and mean and a lie, which you know perfectly well," she wrote.

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HELLO!

Hot shot of the week



JENNIFER TAN/NETWEEK

Sarah McLachlan, 40, now separated from her husband of 11 years, Ashwin Sood, has worked through her pain with two new, personal songs on her greatest-hits album, *Closer*. The Vancouver-based singer-songwriter says she's in a good place. "I've lived my life very instinctively and it's worked out pretty well up to this point," she tells *HELLO! Canada*.

HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands — read more at hellomagazine.ca

Scarlett's shocker

CELEBRITY Actress Scarlett Johansson is still shocked over the vulgar remarks Lindsay Lohan allegedly scribbled about her on a New York City bathroom stall because she barely knows her, imdb.com reports.

The actress reportedly wrote "Scarlett is a bloody c—" with permanent marker before making her exit during a night out in 2006.

Johansson is still baffled by the graffiti, since the two actresses have only met a handful of times.

"I don't know what the motivation was," she tells *Allure* magazine.

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